

Public Service during the Pre-Election Period: The Effects of Pre-Election Period Spending To Local Government Public Service Delivery

ABSTRACT

The theory of opportunistic political cycles presupposes that politicians, with direct power over public spending, manipulate public spending during pre-election period to deliver more and better services, with the belief that this will benefit them during the elections. With lack of studies regarding the matter, the study was performed to determine whether opportunistic political cycles exist in the infrastructure and health services of local governments in the Philippines, specifically in the municipalities of Guagua and Floridablanca, Pampanga, Sta. Maria, Bulacan, and Dinalupihan, Bataan. Adopting both quantitative and qualitative research methods, it was determined that an increase in government spending is not necessarily accompanied by an increase in the quantity and improvement in the quality of infrastructure and health services and that changes in service delivery does not necessarily correlate with share of electoral votes. Hence, there was an apparent absence of opportunistic political cycles for the cases studied.

Keywords: opportunistic political cycle, pre-election, local government service, health, infrastructure

CITATION

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